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## INTRODUCTION

“Do not resist an evil person....” Forgiveness is at the heart of the Christian message, but is one of the most challenging principles to live. Jesus challenges his followers to live in a way that seems crazy—but it works!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What ways—big or small—have you tried to get revenge?

Read Matthew 5:38-48

2. Which aspect(s) of this passage do you dislike most? Why?
3. What could Jesus be trying to accomplish with such dramatic examples?
4. Jesus challenges us not to resist an evil person. How might this look different from resisting evil (Romans 12:21; Isaiah 1:17)?
5. Have you been on the receiving end of non-retaliation? What impact did it have on you?
6. How do we benefit from this principle in our relationship with God? (Psalm 103:8-10)
7. God makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good person. What does this reveal about God’s desire for humanity? Consider 1 Timothy 2:1-6 and 2 Peter 3:9.
8. Why does Jesus challenge us to live this way? (1 John 4:7-12)
9. What changes need to occur in order for you to show love to those that have wronged you?

## MOVING FORWARD

Revenge, hatred and bitterness eat away at our pursuit of “The Good Life”. More significantly, it distances us from God and who he’s created us to be. Think through question 9; pray for God’s peace to help you release that burden and begin praying for that person.